CLAIMS

1. Use of at least one molecule containing selenium, in a quantity corresponding to a daily dose of about 2 to 80 mg of atomic selenium equivalent, i.e about 0.025 to 1 mg/kg, for the production of a drug for treating severe systemic inflammatory response syndrome or any state corresponding to a severe acute attack of an inflammatory pathology causing an exacerbation of cytokine secretion.

2. Use of at least one molecule containing selenium for the production of a drug for treating systemic inflammatory response syndrome, in a quantity corresponding to a daily dose of about 2 to 80 mg of atomic selenium equivalent, i.e. about 0.025 to 1 mg/kg, at the beginning of the treatment, then at a daily dose of about 0.5 to 2 mg of atomic selenium equivalent, i.e. about 0.000625 to 0.025 mg/kg, in the subsequent treatment.

3. Use according to one of claims 1 or 2 in which the drug is intended for treating severe acute infectious states, such as peritonitis, pneumopathies, meningitis or bacterial septicemias in a septic shock state.

4. Use according to one of claims 1 or 2 for treating severe infectious states whether of bacterial, parasitic, fungal, or viral origin and, in general, any condition accompanied by a significant immuno-inflammatory reaction with in particular an increase in circulating cytokines, but also more localized conditions such as an attack of rheumatoid polyarthritis.

5. Use of the drug according to any one of the preceding claims for treatment in man or animals, the doses per kg being, in animals, modulated according to the 50% lethal dose (LD 50) of the species in comparison with that of the human species.

6. Use according to any one of the preceding claims in which the drug is produced so as to give a daily dose of about 2 to 80 mg of atomic selenium equivalent, i.e about 0.025 to 1 mg/kg, during the first day, and optionally the second, third and fourth days of treatment.

7. Use according to any one of the preceding claims in which the drug is produced so as to give a daily dose of about 0.5 to 2 mg of atomic selenium equivalent, i.e about 0.000625 to 0.025 mg/kg, for 1 to 20 days during the subsequent treatment.

8. Use according to any one of the preceding claims according to which one of the molecules containing selenium is sodium selenite.

9. Use according to any one of the preceding claims in which several molecules containing selenium are used simultaneously to modulate more precisely different compartments of the systemic inflammatory reaction.

10. Use according to claim 9 in which said molecules are one or more of the following molecules : a selenium salt, such as a selenite or selenate of inorganic selenium, or an organic selenium, for example selenocysteine, selenomethionine, selenodiglutathione, selenomethyl selenocysteine, dimethyl selenoxide, selenocystamine, selenated yeasts or synthetic chemicals containing one or more atoms of selenium, the preferred molecule being sodium selenite

11. Use according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the drug is in a form which may be administered by the parenteral route, preferably by intravenous, and also by subcutaneous, intramuscular, and also by intraperitoneal, enteral or oral routes, and advantageously in an injectable or perfusable pharmaceutical form or for enteral administration.

12. Use according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the drug contains at least one associated non-selenium compound inhibiting, or reducing the consequences of, oxidative metabolism or inhibiting the inflammatory reaction.

13. Use according to claim 12, characterized in that the associated non-selenium compound which inhibits oxidative metabolism is selected from a glutathione precursor, an iron chelator, a copper chelator, copper, zinc, vitamin E and optionally vitamin C.

14. Use according to claim 12, characterized in that the compound inhibiting the inflammatory reaction is gold.

15. Use according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the drug contains an essential oligo-element other than selenium or those cited above (Cu, Zn).

16. Pharmaceutical composition characterized in that it comprises a quantity of molecule or molecules containing selenium corresponding to a daily dose of about 2 to 80 mg of atomic selenium equivalent, i.e. about 0.025 to 1 mg/kg, and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

17. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16, characterized in that it contains at least one associated non-selenium compound inhibiting or reducing the consequences of oxidative metabolism or inhibiting the inflammatory reaction.

18. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17, characterized in that the associated non-selenium compound is selected from vitamin E and optionally vitamin C, a glutathione precursor, an iron chelator, a copper chelator, copper, or zinc.

19. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17, characterized in that the compound inhibiting the inflammatory reaction is gold.

20. Composition according to any one of claims 16 to 19, characterized in that it contains an essential oligo-element other than selenium or those cited above (Cu, Zn).

21. Composition according to any one of claims 16 to 20, characterized in that it is in an injectable or perfusable form or for parenteral administration, preferably intravenous (also subcutaneous or intramuscular), but also intraperitoneal, enteral or oral.

22. Composition according to any one of claims 16 to 21, characterized in that it is in the form of a perfusion containing between about 1.3 and 800 mg of atomic selenium equivalent per litre.